



Redhill Philatelic Society



Newsletter February 2013

Volume 16 No. 1

Forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday Evenings:

19th February -

+++ Society Auction +++

5th March

Churchill – Mr N Evans

19th March

++ Society Competitions ++

2nd April

Australia - Mr D Brunning

16th April

Thematic Evening – Mr P Cant

7th May

A.G.M. & Member's Display

Friday Afternoons:

22nd February

Thematics - All Members

29th March – Display by "The 2 Alans"

Editorial:

This is the first newsletter of 2013, so let me open by wishing all members a Happy New Year!

The newsletter is only a single page on this occasion to make room for the Society's Auction catalogue, which following a magnificent response from the membership contains over 200 lots. Please take note of the notice at the foot of the page regarding the early opening of the meeting room and start time for the sale of lots which will be necessary for the Auction to be completed on time.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind members that the Society competitions are now only a month away. In recent years there has been good quality in the entries, but on occasion Members of the Committee organising the meeting would have felt greater encouragement if there had been more entries. There is still time, so if you have not done so already dust down a copy of the competition guidelines and write up a few pages. Lost your copy of the rules? Speak to David Ainsley who I am sure will be happy to furnish you with a copy.

Derek White, our Secretary is currently drawing up the programme for forthcoming Seasons, if you know of a collector who would be suitable to give a display at one of our meetings or if there is a subject that you would like to see covered, please let Derek know.

Robert Hurst
3 Bletchingley Road, Merstham
RH1 3HT

Up Coming Events:

- 20 – 23 February 2013 **Spring Stampex** (including a specialist exhibition of **Revenue and Cinderella** material)
Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH
(Nearest Tube: The Angel on the Northern Line)
On 21 February Royal Mail will issue a set of stamps marking the 200th Anniversary of Jane Austin's novel: *Pride & Prejudice*
- 3 March 2013 **Sevenoaks Stamp Fair** (Sunday 10am-4pm)
Knole Academy, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LE
- 1 April 2013 **Tolworth Postcard & Ephemera Fair** (Bank Holiday Monday 9:00am-4:00pm)
Tolworth Recreation Centre, Fullers Way North. KT6 7LQ.

Auction – 19th February 2013

Please note, following a fantastic response from members there are over 200 lots in this year's auction. To allow time for viewing and for the lots to be sold the meeting room will be open at 7:00 pm. The auction itself will start at 7:45 pm. The auction catalogue is included with this edition of the newsletter. For those unable to attend on the evening our auctioneer Paul Munro will be accepting telephone bids, please see the auction catalogue for details.

Reports of Society Meetings:

16 October 2012 – Abraham Lincoln - Mr Angus Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) was the 16th President of the United States, serving from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865. Lincoln successfully led the United States through its greatest constitutional, military, and moral crisis – the American Civil War – preserving the Union while ending slavery and promoting economic and financial modernization. Reared in a poor family on the western frontier, Lincoln was mostly self-educated, and became a country lawyer, a Whig Party leader, Illinois state legislator during the 1830s, and a one-term member of the United States House of Representatives during the 1840s, before securing the presidency in 1860. Lincoln has been consistently ranked by scholars and the public as one of the three greatest U.S. presidents, alongside George Washington and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Given his stature it is little surprising that Abraham Lincoln has been depicted on many stamps not only from his native country but from around the world. In the first half of his display Angus ably guided those present through the events of his name sake's life using stamps and postcards, including his famous Gettysburg Address delivered at the dedication ceremony of the cemetery for the fallen at the Battle of Gettysburg. The items shown also touched on the President's legacy including the famous memorials in Washington DC and the carving at Mount Rushmore.

In the second half of the evenings display Angus focused down on to the stamps portraying Abraham Lincoln on the 870 Departmental stamp issue, and the example of one stamp released in the 1960's. This gave an entirely different perspective in which the subject could be studied, covering in the case of departmental stamps the eight differing colours for each Department of State who used the design together with proofs. For the example of the more recent issue, usage on mail, booklets and plate blocks were shown.

During the evening to give a flavor of the extent of material produced in connection with the President, Angus advised that while forming his collection one of his purchases was an auction lot estimated to be in the region of 15,000 postcards relating to President Lincoln (with no duplication).

Commenting when giving the vote of thanks for an entertaining talk, Derek White observed "the display this evening showed how the subject of a collection can be developed into specialised areas. The last part focusing down on to one stamp was very interesting and I would have happily seen more."

6 November - Visit from Orpington Philatelic Society

Two members of Orpington P.S. Mr Paul Skinner and Mr Len Bridger visited to entertain with four different displays. Mr Bridger started proceedings with a display of British Guiana, the only British Colony on mainland South America. The majority of the territory is jungle and even today the bulk of the population live along the Caribbean coast. The items shown traced developments in the Post Office from the A03 and A04 cancels used between 1958 & 1960 through examples of the British Guiana stamps issued from 1860 up to the 1930s and early airmails which helped open up the interior of the country.

Mr Skinner followed with a thematic of manned space flight starting with the Soviet and United States rivalry in space exploration in the late 1950's and proceeding via the Apollo programme to Sky Lab in the 1970's and the Space Shuttle.

For the second half of the evening Len returned with a display of early ship letters, before moving on to the handling of mail posted at sea (Sea Post Offices) and the cancels applied to mail received from ships after docking.

Mr Skinner concluded a varied and enjoyable evening with World War I military mail, a subject that attracted Paul not only for the wide variety of postal and censorship marks that can be collected, but also the window they provide on a pivotal time in the modern history. The lives of ordinary servicemen were brought to life where letters have been retained with their envelope, and through reading the messages on postcards. Examples of the various types of Field service postcards were shown, alongside details of Free Post arrangements for those on active service, and specimens of cancels and censor marks. The display concluded with a reproduction of a guide to one of the sectors of the Western Front published immediately after the War so that relatives could visit the battle fields where their family member had fallen.

"We were taken on a far ranging journey this evening, by people who knew their subject" commented Mr David Ainsley in giving the vote of thanks.